

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) In the production of refractory articles, the improvement comprises incorporating a polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and at least one phenolic compound into the refractory material and forming the refractory material article.

Claim 2 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the bisphenol residue is from bisphenol A production.

Claim 3 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the aldehyde is formaldehyde.

Claims 4 to 8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the phenolic compound is phenol.

Claim 10 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 1, the polycondensation product is dissolved in a solvent.

Claim 11 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is high boiling.

Claim 12 (previously presented) In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyglycols and phthalates.